Reply to Office action of Nov. 24, 03

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-18 (Canceled).

19-37 (Cancel).

38. (New) A lid for closing a container (15) which has a neck (2) with means (12) for securing the lid (1), wherein an outer lid consists of a top part (6), which top part (6) covers the opening in the container neck(2) and a cylindrical collar (3), which has means (4) on the inner side for securing the lid (1) on the neck (2) of the container (15), and wherein an inner lid (5) is provided between the outer lid and the upper edge of the container neck (2), which cylindrical collar (3) comprises protrusions, where the inner lid (5) is made of a multilayered sheet, wherein the upper layer of the inner lid (5) has a first relatively low friction coefficient with the outer lid, while the lower layer of the inner lid (5) has a second relatively higher friction coefficient with the edge of the container neck (2), wherein one protrusion (13) extends from the inner side of the cylindrical collar (3) of the outer lid, which protrusion is formed directly under the inner lid (5) at the level of the face of the container neck (2), which protrusion (13) is directed radially towards the container neck (2), said protrusion (13), during removal of the lid (1), exerting an upwardly directed pressure against the edge of the inner lid (5) at one point, which causes the inner lid (5) to be lifted pointwise out of contact with the upper edge of the container neck (2).

39. **(New)** A lid according to claim 38, wherein the inner lid (5) consists of a first layer for sealing against the edge of the container,

31

Appln. No.: 09/936,820 Docket No.: 66418-066-7 Amdt. Dated Feb. 24, 04

Reply to Office action of Nov. 24, 03

wherein the first layer consists of a soft thermoplastic elastomer, and wherein the inner lid (5) also consists of a second layer having gas barrier properties.

- 40. **(New)** A lid according to claim 39, wherein the inner lid (5) consists of a third layer consisting of thermoplastics which covers the second layer, said third layer consisting of thermoplastics which covers the second layer, said third layer making contact with the outer lid.
- 41. **(New)** A lid according to claim 40, wherein the second layer consists of aluminium.
- 42. **(New)** A lid according to claim 41, wherein the first layer consists of low density polyolefins.
- 43. **(New)** A lid according to claim 42, wherein the first layer consists of a low density polyethylenes.
- 44. **(New)** A lid according to claim 43, wherein the third layer consists of polyolefins.
- 45. **(New)** A lid according to claim 44, wherein the third layer consists of polyethylene.
- 46. **(New)** A lid according to claim 44, wherein the third layer consists of polypropylene.
- 47. **(New)** A lid according to claim 44, wherein the third layer consists of ethylene vinyl acetate plastics.
- 48. **(New)** A lid according to claim 44, wherein the third layer consists of polyester.

Appln. No.: 09/936,820 Docket No.: 66418-066-7 Amdt. Dated Feb. 24, 04

Reply to Office action of Nov. 24, 03

- 49. (New) A lid according to claim 35, wherein the diameter of the inner lid (5) is larger than the external diameter of the container neck (2), but simultaneously smaller than the internal diameter of the outer lid, said protrusion (13) of the collar (13) extending radially toward the centre until the external diameter of the package neck (2).
- 50. **(New)** A lid according to claim 49, wherein the inner lid (5) has a hole for pressure equalization between the volume of the container (15) and a volume between the outer lid and the inner lid (5).
- 51. (New) A lid according to claim 50, wherein a seal sealing against the outer lid is provided around an opening in the inner lid (5), said outer lid having a subarea above the opening of the inner lid (5) which is deflected by a pressure difference.
- 52. **(New)** A lid according to claim 49, wherein the centre of the inner lid (5) is secured to the outer lid with a rotatable securing means (19), wherein a container vacuum through the inner lid (5) pulls the centre of the outer lid (6) downwards, thereby deflecting a subarea of the outer lid.
- 53. **(New)** A lid according to claim 52, wherein the collar (3) of the lid (1) has an inwardly directed annular ring (14) as a securing means for the inner lid (5), said ring extending in an oblique direction relative to the inner lid (5).
- 54. **(New)** A method of opening a lid according to claim 38, by means of twisting it off the neck of the container, wherein during the twisting off of the lid a pointwise upwardly directed pressure is created on

Appln. No.: 09/936,820 Docket No.: 66418-066-7 Amdt. Dated Feb. 24, 04

Reply to Office action of Nov. 24, 03

BI

the edge of the inner lid, an opening to the volume of the container thus being created and the volume being vented.